The Constitution of the Black Student Union at Indiana University Purdue University-Indianapolis

PREAMBLE

IN RECOGNITION OF THE NEED FOR AN ORGANIZATION TO MEET THE ACADEMIC, POLITICAL, PHILOSOPHICAL, AND SOCIAL NEEDS OF BLACK STUDENTS; DEVELOP AND MAINTAIN A POSITIVE RACIAL IDENTITY AMONG BLACKS ON THIS CAMPUS AND THE INDIANAPOLIS COMMUNITY; TO PROMOTE SELF-AWARENESS, COMMUNAL SENSITIVITY AND ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AMONG BLACKS; AND TO ASSIST IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF RESPONSIBLE LEADERSHIP, COMMUNITY UPLIFT AND ARTICULATION OF THE GENERAL CONCERNS OF ALL STUDENTS AT INDIANA UNIVERSITY-PURDUE UNIVERSITY AT INDIANAPOLIS, WE THE BLACK STUDENTS OF INDIANA UNIVERSITY-PURDUE UNIVERSITY AT INDIANAPOLIS DO HEREBY JOINTLY ESTABLISH THIS CONSTITUTION.

CHAPTER I

ARTICLE I: NAME AND SYMBOL

Section 1: The name of this organization shall be the Black Student Union. (BSU)

Section 2: The symbol of the organization shall be (see picture).

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE

Section 1: The purpose of the Black Student Union shall be to bring about a union of university students, faculty, staff and alumni of similar high ideals of academic achievement, leadership, and community uplift in order.

- To stimulate the attainment of similar high ideals and achievement among members and nonmembers;
- To assist its members in the achievement of their academic and career goals;
- To encourage and foster programs of special interest to black students, IUPUI, and the black community;
- To cooperate with appropriate university administrators in the development of such programs;
- To operate in a progressive, helpful and constructive manner in the university and Indianapolis communities;
- To prepare its members for greater usefulness in the causes of humanity, freedom, and dignity of the individual;
• To aid oppressed humanity in its continuing efforts to advance socially, economically and intellectually.

ARTICLE III: ORGANIZATION

Section 1: The organization shall be composed of all student members of the university community, the General Assembly and, the Executive Council.

CHAPTER II

ARTICLE I: ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Section 1: Election of Officers: The election of Black Student Union Officers will be held the first week in April of each calendar year. All full and part-time students who are paid members and currently enrolled for credit at IUPUI may vote.

Section 2: Mode of Election: the election of officers of the Black Student Union officers shall be by blind ballot after direct nominations the first week in April.

A duly constituted election committee shall compose of a Black Student advisor and two paid members they shall print and distribute the ballots, together with any other information pertaining to the election on a timely basis.

The election committee shall also be responsible for counting and certifying the authenticity of all ballots and announcing the results of the election. The nominee receiving the majority of votes cast shall be declared the winner.

In the event that two or more nominees are elected and no candidate receives the majority of the votes cast, a run-off election shall be held. The candidate who receives the majority of votes in the run-off election shall be declared the winner.

ARTICLE II: DESIGNATED OFFICERS, COUNCILS, AND COMMITTEES

Section 1: Names of elected officers of the Black Student Union shall be: President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Section 2: Name of appointed officers of the Black Student Union shall be: Communication, Event Chair, Fundraising Chair, MLK Chair, Pageant Coordinator, Parliamentarian and Special Committees. Special Committees shall be appointed as deemed necessary by the President.

Section 3: Executive Council: The Executive Council of the Black Student Union shall consist of the currently elected President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Communications Chair, Event Chair and Fundraising Chair, and Parliamentarian.

Section 4: The General Assembly: The General Assembly shall consist of the Executive Council, all student members, and all non-student members.

ARTICLE III: POWERS AND DUTIES OF OFFICERS
**Section 1: PRESIDENT:** The President shall be the elected chief executive officer of the Black Student Union. The President shall be the presiding officer over all Executive Board meetings. He/She shall also possess the power to make appointments. He/She is also an ex-officio member of all standing institutions. Furthermore, the President shall cast a vote only in instances of a tie vote. The President oversees the organization in its total operational capacity and possesses discretionary powers when making major decisions. Both the President and the Executive Board will determine administrative implementation regarding policy for the organization. He/She shall preside over the General Assembly, chair the Executive Council and perform other duties as set forth in the Bylaws of the Black Student Union.

**Section 2: VICE PRESIDENT:** The Vice President shall be elected the assistant to the President. Only during the absence of the President shall the Vice President preside over all meetings. He/She shall also perform other duties assigned by the Executive Council and as set forth in the Bylaws of the Black Student Union. The vice president shall oversee all internal operations of the organization. He/She also serves as a counsel to the president. The vice president serves as the administrative liaison to both the president and other organizations. The vice president shall be a voting executive board member.

**Section 3: SECRETARY:** The Secretary shall be the elected administrative officer. The Secretary shall be charged with the responsibility of recording and preserving the minutes of all meetings. The Executive Secretary's areas responsibility will include coordinating the support functions of all personnel; maintaining of supplies, scrutinizing outgoing correspondence, keeping the President abreast of meetings and communications which necessitates immediate action. The Executive Secretary is a voting Executive Board member. He/She shall be the custodian of all records and proceedings of the organization; act as auditing supervisor; and perform other duties assigned by the Executive Council or as set forth by the Bylaws of Black Student Union.

**Section 4: TREASURER:** The Treasurer shall be the elected supervisor of the financial affairs of the Black Student Union. The Treasurer shall maintain an accurate system of recording all financial and business transactions of the organization. He/She will advocate sound fiscal policies to the board during both executive and work sessions. The Treasurer must be impartial in the performance of his/her duties. Additional responsibilities include collecting and recording all monies generated from fund raising events, concession stands, and the balancing of the ledger at the end of each month. The Treasurer is a voting Executive Board member. He/She shall hold all funds, and perform other duties assigned by the Executive Council or as set forth by the Bylaws of the Black Student Union.

**Section 5: COMMUNICATIONS CHAIR:** The Communications Chair shall be head of all correspondence of meetings, events, media broadcasting and advertising. The Communications Chair shall be responsible for all outgoing correspondence, keeping the President abreast of any and all communications on behalf of Black Student Union prior to meetings. He/She shall perform other duties as assigned by the Executive Council or as set forth by the Bylaws of Black Student Union.

**Section 6: FUNDRAISING:** The Fundraising Chair shall be head of all events, speakers, callouts, non-monetary donations, sponsorships and any corresponding events that generate monies, but will be delivered to the Treasurer. He/She shall perform other duties as assigned by the Executive Council or as set forth by the Bylaws of the Black Student Union.

**Section 7: PARLIAMENTARIAN:** The Parliamentarian shall be the appointed organizational officer and disciplinary officer of the Black Student Union. He/She shall be unbiased regarding the matters being discussed at meetings, be able to define the By-Laws of the Executive Council
and advise the Council on these as necessary, and be aware of the format desired by the President at meetings and assist in keeping within the format. The Parliamentarian shall be responsible for time limitations on agenda items and holding speakers accountable to keep on time as listed on the agenda. He/She is to call to the attention of the chair any error in the proceedings of any official meetings of the Black Student Union. The Parliamentarian shall be assigned a seat next to the President, so as to be convenient for consultation. He/She shall prepare the General Assembly meeting room, provide for meeting security, keep a record of all warnings of disciplinary infractions; see to the removal of any persons from the General Assembly meetings upon order of the President and shall perform such other duties as assigned by the Executive Council or as set forth by the Bylaws of the Black Student Union.

Section 8: EVENTS: The Events Chair shall be head of all future events, community service and report events to the Executive Council and to corresponding fundraisers. The Events chair will also serve as Historian in an effort to recapture and record the history of the Black Student Union, thus articulating the history of Black Student Union through a yearbook or website after concluding events. He/She shall perform other duties as assigned by the Executive Council or as set forth by the Bylaws of Black Student Union.

Section 9: MLK CHAIR: The MLK Chair shall be head of all events planning, securing a speaker, advertisements, sponsorships and any corresponding events that contribute to the success of the Annual MLK Celebration. In the event that the previous chair is either unable or unwilling to continue the following year as chair, the co-chair will step in as chair for that following year. He/She shall perform other duties related to the dinner as assigned by the Executive Council or as set forth by the Bylaws of Black Student Union.

Section 10: PAGEANT COORDINATOR: The Pageant Coordinator shall be head of all events planning, advertisements, sponsorships and any corresponding events that contribute to the success of the Annual Black Student Union Scholarship Pageant. He/She shall perform other duties related to the success of the pageant or as assigned duties by executive council or as set forth by the Bylaws of Black Student Union.

Section 11: All elected and appointed officers shall be required to devote a minimum of one hour per week in the Black Student Union desk. This scheduled time should be documented and agreed upon by the President and the officer in question.

ARTICLE IV: ELIGIBILITY FOR OFFICER AND TERM OF OFFICE

Section 1: Eligibility for Office: To be eligible for office in the Black Student Union, a member shall be: (*unless deemed otherwise by the Executive Council)

- A full-time student (min. 12 credit hrs.)
- A student in good standing and not listed on any university check-list and/or on academic and/or disciplinary probation.
- Have accumulated at least 26 semester hours as recognized by the university.
- Have a cumulative grade point average of 2.3 or above as certified by the university.
- Have paid current membership dues and/or assessments.
- Transfer students must be in good standing with IUPUI and previous university with a grade point average of 2.3
Section 2: Term of Office: All elected and appointed officers of the Black Student Union shall serve for a term of one year. Their term of office shall commence at the first General Assembly held in April of the next year. No elected or appointed officer shall remain in the same office longer than two consecutive terms.

ARTICLE V: SUCCESSION OF OFFICERS:

Section 1: Vacancy of the office of President: In the event the President shall become physically or mentally disabled, or fails to perform their duties in a manner satisfactory to the Black Student Union, or should resign before the expiration of his/her term of office, the Vice President shall immediately assume the office of President and the Executive Council shall appoint an interim Vice President to serve the unexpired term.

Section 2: Vacancy of the Office of Vice President: In the event the Vice President shall become physically or mentally disabled or fails to perform his/her duties in a manner satisfactory to the Black Student Union, or should resign before expiration of the term of office, the Executive Council shall appoint an interim Vice President to serve the unexpired term.

Section 3: Vacancy of Secretary and Treasurer: In the event the Secretary or Treasurer shall become physically or mentally disabled, or fails to perform their duties in a manner satisfactory to the Black Student Union, or should resign before the expiration of his/her term of office. The President shall appoint an interim Secretary or Treasurer to serve the unexpired term with the consent of the Executive Council.

Section 4: Vacancy of Appointed Officers, Committee Chairpersons and Appointed Personnel: In the event that any officer, Committee Chairperson, or any member appointed by the President to perform services for the Black Student Union fails to perform their duties in a manner satisfactory to the Black Student Union, or becomes physically or mentally disabled, or should resign before the expiration of their term of service. Executive Council shall either appoint a successor for such removed, disabled or resigning member for the unexpired term of said member or combine chairs.

ARTICLE VI: REMOVAL OF OFFICERS

Section 1: Any elected or appointed officer of the Black Student Union may be removed from office when that officer no longer meets the requirements of that office.

Section 2: Procedures for Removal from Office

- Removal can be made only by a two-third (2/3) majority vote of present Executive Council. The Vice-President shall be the presiding officer in all cases for removal from office. The President shall preside in the inquiry or removal from office of the Vice President. In the event of a tie, the Faculty Advisor shall be the official mediator of the final vote.
- The officer who is being removed from office shall be notified one week prior to the inquiry. A certified letter shall be sent by the presiding officer of the inquiry to the most recent address listed with the University Registrar.
- The letter shall state the grounds for which the inquiry is being called, including specific times and incidents. It shall also state the date, time and location of the inquiry.
- The officer under inquiry need not be present at the inquiry. He or she may, however, attend and obtain legal counsel at his/her own expense.
• All rebuttals or documentation to be presented at the inquiry by the officer under inquiry (or his/her designee) may either be written or oral. In the case of written rebuttal the information may be read aloud by the presiding officer and made a permanent part of the record.
• Following removal, a certified letter shall be sent to the officer with a copy going to the Faculty Advisor, the Student Activity Director.

Section 3: Any member of a Black Student Union committee, including the chairperson, may be removed by the President for failing to perform their duties as a committee member.

ARTICLE VII: POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Section 1: Power of the Executive Council: The Executive Council shall have the power and responsibility to conduct the affairs of the organization.

Section 2: Duties of the Executive Council: The Executive Council shall have the authority to:

• Establish appropriate policies and procedures, and implement the same subject to the consent of the General Assembly.
• To hear allegation of misconduct of members and temporarily suspend members pending judgment by the General Assembly.

Section 3: The Executive Council shall have all other powers and duties as might be assigned to it by the constitution and Bylaws of Black Student Union.

Chapter III
ARTICLE I: GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETINGS

Section 1: Executive Council: The executive council members are responsible for attending all meetings unless emergency or prior arrangements shall occur. In doing so the Executive Council member should communicate to the President or an Executive Council member as long as his/her duties are being fulfilled.

Section 2: Committee Members: The Committee Members of corresponding chairs are responsible for attending all meetings that carry out their committee chair responsibilities.

Section 3: Visiting Members: Other members of University Organizations, Community Organizations, Faculty, Staff and Alumni shall be admitted to the sessions of the General Assembly and to have a voice therein, but shall not be permitted to vote nor serve on committees.

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE

Section 1: Purpose: The General Assembly shall convene at least once in each month at such times and places as may be decided by the Executive Council for the purpose of:

• Hearing and acting upon the reports, recommendations and the activities of the Executive Council;
• Hearing and acting upon the reports, recommendations and the activities of the Committee of each Chair;
Hearing and acting upon such other as may be presented.

Section 2: Quorum: Quorum must be represented by both the Executive Council and the Student Members to have an organized General Assembly meeting.

- Official representation for Executive Council is two thirds (2/3) of the council.
- Official representation for the body is one fourth (1/4) of the body.

Section 3: Vote Eligibility: Paid student members of the Black Student Union shall be entitled to one vote each at the General Assembly Meeting.

Section 4: Voting Result: Expect as herein otherwise provided, a majority vote shall be decisive in the matter voted upon.

Section 5: Power: The General Assembly shall have the power:

- To adopt amendments to the constitution
- To adopt Bylaws consistent with the constitution;
- To elect officers for the ensuing term;
- To do other things as may be necessary for the welfare of the Black Student Union.
- Expulsion and Suspension: The General Assembly shall have the power to provide in the Bylaws for the expulsion and/or suspension of members.

Section 6: Procedures: All General Assembly meetings will be conducted in accordance with the Parlimentarian's Rules & Procedures as outlined prior to each general assembly meeting.

Chapter IV

ARTICLE I: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1: Student Membership: Any person enrolled as an undergraduate student as certified by registrar’s office, at IUPUI, shall be eligible for student membership in the Black Student Union.

- Have paid current membership dues and/or assessments.
- A student in good standing and not listed on any university check-list and/or on academic and/or disciplinary probation.

Section 2: Non-Student Membership: Any individual at IUPUI, employed as a faculty member, Administrator, or Staff member shall be eligible for non-student membership in the Black Student Union. Any person having dual status as an employee and student shall be eligible for student membership only.

Chapter V

ARTICLE I: PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

Section 1: Historical Events: Black Student Union has a responsibility to put on four weeks of programming during the month of February for Black History Month. The weeks are themed and events on those weeks put on by the members of Black Student Union or university entities co-sponsoring with Black Student Union should fall in line with those themes. The weeks are as follows: Week 1: Education, Week 2: News & Media, Week 3: Entertainment and Week 4: Family.
Past Black History Month Events have included but are not limited to:

- **Black Jeopardy (Education)** a game show like environment where black history questions are asked of students, faculty and staff for the purposes of winning prizes while gaining knowledge.

- **Images in Black (News & Media)** a panel style discussion with members of the IUPUI community and local news, media, and radio and television personalities to discuss the portrayal of African Americans in various forms of media and popular culture.

- **Soul Cinema (Entertainment)** the showing of an oft-times older black film which highlights aspects of college life or comedic value. Past films have included: “Crooklyn” and “School Daze” by Spike Lee

- **Soul Food Dinner (Family)** the soul food dinner is an opportunity to fellowship with members’ families, friends, faculty members and fellow Black Student Unions and campus organizations to emphasize unity and food that nourished generations of African Americans with the pride of recipes that have been handed down over the years.

**Section 2: Annual Events:**

- **Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Dinner:** The longest-running celebration honoring Dr. King in Indianapolis. The dinner attracts sell-out crowds to commemorate King’s goals and dreams and to hear nationally renowned speakers. Past speakers include the famed American poet Maya Angelou; former Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm; and the scholar Henry Louis Gates. The Black Student Union has been putting on this event since 1969 and each year puts on a dinner to remember and honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

- **Miss Red & Black Scholarship Pageant:** Black Student Union at Indiana University – Purdue University put on the first ever scholarship pageant in the history of the institution on Friday, April 30th, 2007 at the Madame Walker Theater with the first winner receiving a thousand dollar scholarship. As an Annual Event the Black Student Union, Miss Red & Black Pageant will be held in April every spring semester and put on by a pageant coordinator appointed by Executive Council or in automatic succession through a co-coordinator.

- **African Masquerade Ball:** Several communities in African countries use the end of the calendar year as a time of annual reunion. During the recent end of the year and beginning of the year celebrations, several communities in southeastern Nigeria celebrated their annual outing of masquerades and other cultural dances for the public. The first African Masquerade Ball was held Saturday, December 1st 2007 in Herron School of Art Great Hall. It is a formal event co-sponsored event with African Student Association and Black Student Union to celebrate the end of the fall semester and give a chance for people to interact and celebrate. A cultural carnival and great opportunity for interaction and meeting of old and new friends. Traditionally an African Masquerade Ball King and Queen are crowned as the most dedicated member of Black Student Union and African Student Association.

- **BSU Awards:** The BSU Awards are held in place of the last meeting of the year and serve as a time of inauguration of the new executive board members and as recognition of exemplary members of the organization. The Awards to be given include but are not limited to: BSU Man and Woman of the Year, Lifetime Achievement, Organization Most Likely to Co-Sponsor with BSU, Most BSU Spirit, BSU Service Award, BSU Stellar Scholar
Award, Funniest Member Award, Most Talented and the Most Likely to become BSU President Award.

Nominations are to be accepted no less than one month in advance of the awards and voted on 1 week prior to the event. The Lifetime Achievement Award is to recognize an outstanding faculty member or former BSU member who has made a significant contribution to the legacy of Black Student Union.

Section 3: Programs:

- **Gospel Choir: Unashamed**: “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth” - Romans 1:16.

  The members of Gospel Choir believe that God has given them the gift of song and invite everyone to come together and minister to others at IUPUI. All Sopranos, Altos, Tenors, Basses and musicians are welcome to be a part of the blessed ministry that is Gospel Choir.

- **Fight AIDS**: The Fight AIDS campaign is an ongoing mission of education, prevention and activism supported by the members of Black Student Union by offering free AIDS testing every two weeks starting the first week in October and raising money to donate to the Indiana AIDS foundation before participating in the Annual Indiana AIDS Walk.

Chapter VI

**ARTICLE I: AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION**

**Section 1**: Proposal of Amendments: Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed by the Executive Council, or by the General Assembly.

**Section 2**: The Constitution may be amended as follows:

- Amendments to the Constitution proposed as herein before provided must be submitted to the Student Director at least 10 days before a General Assembly Meeting. The Secretary shall circulate the proposed amendment(s) to all members in good standing and existence at the time of such proposed amendment(s) at least 7 days before a General Assembly meeting. Such proposed amendment must be acted upon at the next meeting of the General Assembly, and shall be considered adopted by a two-thirds vote of the members so assembled.

- Adopted amendments shall become effective immediately following the adjournment of said General Assembly.

**ARTICLE II: ADOPTION OF CONSTITUTION**

**Section 1**: This constitution and amendments there to shall be adopted or rejected section by section, and the rejection of any section shall not affect the remaining sections.